



Bipartisan Reauthorization of Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Some of the Recent Letters/Press Releases In Support

American Medical Association

Catholic Health Association

Healthcare Leadership Council

National Association of Children's Hospitals

American Nurses Association

U.S. Conference of Mayors

NAACP

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

United Way of America



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2007

AMA URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION TO COVER KIDS

Remarks delivered at joint press conference to support children's health care

Statement attributable to: Edward Langston, M.D.
AMA Board Chair

"Thank you, and good morning. I'm Dr. Edward Langston, Board Chair of the American Medical Association and a family physician in Lafayette, Indiana. I'm pleased to be here today to represent the nation's largest physician organization as part of this diverse group of voices supporting children's health care.

"I am here today to urge Congress and President Bush to take immediate action to preserve health care coverage for kids in low-income families. If the president does not sign a bill into law before the program expires on September 30, seven million children will be in danger of losing their CHIP coverage and risk joining the nine million kids who are already living without health insurance.

"Already, some states can no longer accept new children into this federal-state program because they don't know if the funding is going to be there next month to support new enrollment. Let's not make America's children wait any longer for the health care they need.

"Right now, we have an important opportunity to make improvements to CHIP. We shouldn't waste it. For children to get a good start in life, they need access to the medical care that this program makes possible. As a physician, I see the benefits of CHIP firsthand. Parents who work hard, but can't afford health insurance, are able to get their kids the care they need to stay healthy and strong.

"America's low-income children are relying on Congress and President Bush to ensure their continued access to health care. Covering kids is an investment in America's future, as it enables future generations to have the best chance to learn, develop, and succeed. Today, we urge our elected leaders to do the right thing to protect America's future."

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Contact:
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AMA Media Relations
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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

**CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION TO CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT BUSH:
UNINSURED CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP NOW**

WASHINGTON, DC (September 24, 2007) — Sister Carol Keehan, DC, president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), issued the following statement.

The Catholic Health Association supports the bipartisan compromise to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and urges all members of Congress to support the legislation.

Reauthorizing SCHIP represents the most humane and pro-life opportunity Congress and the President currently have: to ensure that millions of children—born and unborn—receive the health care they need and deserve.

CHA calls on President Bush to reconsider his stance on the compromise SCHIP legislation. It is still not too late for the President to change his mind and do what is right for children in this country.

Temporary extensions and/or inadequate funding levels will lead to children losing coverage. That would be an enormous step backward for our nation and a retreat from our collective commitment to cover uninsured children.

Congress is poised to pass a responsible, bipartisan compromise bill that the public widely supports. When any child is allowed to go without health care, we as a nation do not meet our moral obligations or show our compassion.

In light of a Presidential veto, it ultimately may fall on Congress to do what is right for our nation's children. And we expect Congress to vote to protect children. It is time to break down the barriers to children's coverage and do what is right and moral for our nation's children—provide them with a healthier, brighter future.

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For Immediate Release
September 24, 2007

Contact: Michael Freeman
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Health Leaders: Senate-House SCHIP Agreement Makes Important Strides for Children, Families

WASHINGTON – Health industry leaders today applauded congressional conferees for taking steps to improve the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) by improving the program's outreach to eligible children and strengthening the ability of working families to take advantage of employer-offered health insurance.

"Congress deserves credit for bringing real-world solutions to the challenge of getting kids the health coverage they need," said Mary R. Grealy, president of the Healthcare Leadership Council, at a Monday press conference. The HLC is a coalition of chief executives of the nation's leading health care companies and organizations.

The Senate and House are scheduled to vote this week on legislation to reauthorize the SCHIP program.

Ms. Grealy praised provisions in the House-Senate conference agreement that will give states greater flexibility in using SCHIP dollars to help eligible families pay their share of premiums for employer-sponsored insurance.

"This makes perfect sense," she said. "When employers are willing to put money on the table, we need to help working families take advantage of that offer. This approach means that more children will get their coverage from the same source as their parents, using the same network of physicians and hospitals, and taking advantage of the access to specialists, preventive care and disease management tools that private insurance provides."

Another important part of the House-Senate agreement, she said, is money devoted to help states reach out to SCHIP-eligible families.

"We know very well that there are families eligible for this assistance who aren't receiving it," Ms. Grealy said. "We've also conducted surveys that show a majority of uninsured Americans don't know where to turn for information on health coverage. Education and outreach can make a tremendous difference in reducing the nation's uninsured rolls."

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Nation's Children's Hospitals Praise Bipartisan Compromise to Expand Children's Health Coverage and Establish Child Quality Initiative

September 21, 2007

Contact: [Norida Torriente](#)
703/797-6059

(Washington, DC) — The National Association of Children's Hospitals (N.A.C.H.) strongly supports the bipartisan House-Senate compromise to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), including its provisions to extend health coverage to more than three million currently uninsured children and to establish, for the first time, a federal commitment to invest in the efforts to measure and improve the quality of children's health care.

"Nearly two-thirds of uninsured children are eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP," said Lawrence A. McAndrews, President and CEO, N.A.C.H. "The addition of \$35 million in new federal investment in SCHIP, spread over five years, will make it possible to cover 10 million children, including the 6.6 million children currently enrolled in SCHIP. At a time when the number of uninsured children increased for the second year in a row, because of pressures on states to curtail SCHIP and Medicaid spending, this bipartisan compromise is the right response."

The legislation also authorizes federal funding to support the development, testing and validation of quality measures for children's health care. The legislation would fund demonstrations of how to improve the delivery of children's health care, including the development of a pediatric electronic health record. Through Medicare funding for the elderly, the federal government has been a major investor and promoter of quality measurement and improvement in adult health care. But it has done little to support pediatric quality improvement, despite the fact that the federal government is the single largest payer of children's health care through the Medicaid and SCHIP programs.

"Children's health care accounts for less than 11 percent of personal health care spending nationwide, because children are only 25 percent of the population and healthier than adults. As a result, most private and public investment in quality measurement is focused on adults, particularly the elderly. Yet, children have different health care needs and require measures that reflect those different needs," said McAndrews. "The bipartisan compromise, for the first time, ensures the federal government has the authority and resources to make sure children are not left behind in the national movement to measure and improve health care quality."

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The National Association of Children's Hospitals (N.A.C.H.) is the public policy affiliate of the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions. Representing more than 140 freestanding acute care children's hospitals, freestanding children's rehabilitation and specialty hospitals, and children's hospitals organized within larger medical centers, it addresses public policy issues affecting children's hospitals' missions of service to the children of their communities, including clinical care, education, research and advocacy.

ANA Urges Nurses to Support Health Care Coverage for Children

09/21/07

Participate in National Call-In Day on September 25

The House is scheduled to vote Tuesday, September 25, on a bill reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The Senate will take up the bill shortly thereafter. President Bush has threatened to veto this bill – your help is needed to convince Congress to pass the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act with a veto-proof majority. **Call 1-800-828-0498 on Tuesday, September 25 and tell your Member of Congress to vote "yes" on SCHIP.**

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act is needed to extend and expand this successful Federal / State health insurance program. Today, SCHIP covers 6.6 million American children under the age of 19. However, 9 million children remain without any health care coverage. This bipartisan legislation will invest \$35 billion in SCHIP over the next 5 years, and will extend coverage to an additional 4 million low-income kids who would otherwise go without health insurance. It will also require parity for mental health care coverage, and expand access to dental health services. The cost of this expansion is financed by a 61 cent increase in the Federal tobacco tax.

Unfortunately, President Bush has threatened to veto the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. His alternative would cut funding by \$5 billion, and would revoke coverage for nearly one million kids. Tell your Congressional delegation that this is unacceptable. Tell them that America's children deserve the chance for a healthy start in life. **Call 1-800-828-0498 on Tuesday, September 25 and tell your Member of Congress to vote "yes" on SCHIP.**



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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September 24, 2007

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the nation's Mayors, we urge you to vote **"Yes"** for the bipartisan, bicameral compromise bill that would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and provide health insurance coverage to millions of children. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more, supports this compromise bill and asks you to do the same by voting in favor of the bill before you this week.

Our *Mayors' 10-Point Plan: Strong Cities, Strong Families for a Strong America* and our anti-poverty agenda call on Congress and the Administration to address the needs of the more than 9 million uninsured children, the millions more who are underinsured, and those who are at risk of joining the ranks of uninsured by reauthorizing and strengthening the very successful Children's Health Insurance Program.

Last week members of the House and Senate joined in a bipartisan, bicameral effort to craft legislation that will insure an additional 4 million children by providing an additional \$35 billion over five years; improving access to benefits including dental and mental health parity; improving quality of care and providing incentives to lower the rate of uninsured low income children.

We need your help! The nation's children need your help! Working families need your help! Vote **"Yes"** for children! **Let's put children first!** We urge you to vote in favor of legislation that would reauthorize SCHIP and substantially increase the number of children covered by this important and necessary program.

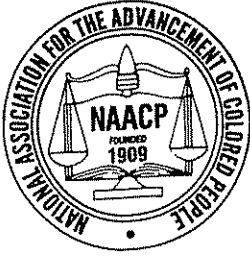
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas H. Palmer".

Douglas H. Palmer
Mayor of Trenton
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Cochran".

Tom Cochran
Executive Director



WASHINGTON BUREAU

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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STATEMENT OF MR. HILARY O. SHELTON DIRECTOR, NAACP WASHINGTON BUREAU ON THE NEED TO PASS THE CONFERENCE REPORT AND EXPAND THE S-CHIP PROGRAM

September 24, 2007

Good afternoon. My name is Hilary Shelton and I am the Director of the NAACP Washington Bureau, the federal and public policy advocates for our Nation's oldest, largest and most widely known grassroots civil rights organization. I am here today with this broad array of groups representing a myriad of interests to lend the NAACP's voice to the chorus of Americans supporting and calling for an expansion of the S-CHIP program.

Since our inception almost 100 years ago, access to high quality, affordable health care for all Americans has been a cornerstone of the NAACP's policy agenda. And the NAACP is convinced that ensuring the health care rights of America's children – all of our children – should perhaps be our top priority in this struggle.

Yet millions of American children, a disproportionate number of whom are racial or ethnic minorities, continue to be uninsured or under-insured.

9 million, or just under 12% of all American children remain uninsured. Every 47 seconds, another baby is born without health insurance. Of these children, almost 90% live in households with at least one working parent. For racial and ethnic minority children, the picture is even bleaker: sixteen percent of the uninsured children are Black. One out of eight African American children is uninsured, and 1 out of every 5, do not have health insurance. Together, racial or ethnic minority children make up more than 62% of those who are uninsured.

To the NAACP, these numbers are simply unacceptable. Even one uninsured, or, for that matter even one under-insured American child, regardless of race or ethnic background, is too many. That is why we applaud the members of the United States Senate and House who have come together to create the bill before us.

To be honest, this bill does not go as far as we would like nor is it all the American children need or deserve. We would like to see universal health care across our Nation, so that every American, adult and child, rich and poor, rural

and urban, black, white, red, brown, yellow or in between enjoys the promise of high quality, affordable health care. I suspect not everyone here today agrees with us.

But we recognize the political realities with which we are faced and we know that we must take small steps toward our goal. The final bill, which I understand may be considered as soon as this week, is a great start. It will expand a proven program and it will help millions of children from low- and middle-income families stay healthy so that they can develop and grow into productive members of our community.

And so on behalf of the NAACP, I urge every member of the House and Senate, as well as the President, to do the right thing, to support this legislation, and to help so many American children get the health coverage they need and deserve.

I thank Families USA, as well as the other groups here today, for coming together and for taking a stand for the future of our Nation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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Congress and the President Must Increase Tobacco Tax to Expand Coverage for Children and Decrease Smoking

**Statement of Daniel E. Smith, President,
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)**

WASHINGTON – September 24, 2007 – “The agreement on the State Children’s Health Insurance Program reached by House and Senate leaders enjoys strong bipartisan support, will reduce youth smoking by an estimated seven percent and overall cigarette consumption by four percent. This means 900,000 of lives saved from the lethal product, which if used as instructed, kills. Simultaneously, it will enable more children to be protected by health care coverage who otherwise will be left uninsured.

“The President has said he will veto the expansion of SCHIP, which would give health insurance to an additional four million children. That the President is opposed to the sensible and lifesaving measure is contradictory to improving the health of our nation, especially to the millions of families who can’t afford health insurance for their children.

“We commend the bipartisan group of Senate and House leaders who worked hard to reach this agreement. Expansion of the SCHIP program through an increase in the federal excise tax is a win-win for our nation. We call upon President Bush to put the health of our children before tobacco companies’ profits and sign the bill when it reaches his desk.

ACS CAN is the nonprofit, nonpartisan sister advocacy organization of the American Cancer Society, dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN works to encourage lawmakers, candidates and government officials to support laws and policies that will make cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer. For more information, visit www.acscan.org.

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Steven S. Taylor
Vice President and Counsel
Public Policy



REAUTHORIZE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

Dear Representative,

United Way strongly supports reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) at a funding level sufficient to preserve coverage for all 6.6 million children currently covered and sufficient to enroll the millions of uninsured children who are eligible for coverage.

CHIP is a proven and effective health insurance program that saves money in the long-run and benefits our society as a whole, as healthy children from low income families have more opportunities to succeed in education and in life. CHIP is supported by hundreds of charities, health care providers, state and local governments, unions and business, and individuals throughout the United States.

As you are aware, House and Senate negotiators have reached a bipartisan agreement to provide \$35 billion in additional funding for a reauthorized CHIP program over the next 5 years. While not perfect, this is a fair compromise and the last, best chance to save this vital program at appropriate funding levels.

United Way is dedicated to improving the health of our nations' children. Improving health is a central aspect of our work to advance the common good. Failure to reauthorize CHIP would be a tragic set-back in United Way's efforts and the efforts of many to create opportunities for a better life for everyone.

We urge you to vote in favor of the CHIP compromise legislation in the House and the Senate this week.

Sincerely,

Steven S. Taylor
Vice President and Counsel
Public Policy